

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12, 15, and 19-21 are rejected. Claims 3, 4, 10, 13, 14, and 16-18 are objected to. Claims 1, 6, 8, 15, and 17 are amended herein. Claims 3, 10, and 16 are cancelled herein. Applicants believe that the amendments herein to the patent application do not add new matter to it.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in the present application. Examiner indicated in the present Office Action that claims 3, 4, 10, 13, 14, and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In reliance on Examiner's remarks regarding allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 to include the limitations of dependent claims 3, 10, and 16 respectively, along with any intervening claims. Consequently, Claims 3, 10, and 16 have been cancelled. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-15, and 17-21 are now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 9, 15, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dobkin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,274,323. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8, and 15 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated

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constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and are thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 that depends from Claim 8 and Claim 19 that depends from Claim 15 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Perrier et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,842,068. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 that depends from Claim 1 is also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dearn et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,856,124. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 2 that depends from Claim 1 is also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 5, 7, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobkin et al. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 15 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 15 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and are thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 7 that depend from Claim 1 and Claim 21 that depends from Claim 15 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobkin et al. in combination with Dearn et al. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claims 8 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 8 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 that depend from Claim 8 is also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobkin et al. in combination with Perrier et al. As stated above, Applicants have amended Claims 8 and 15 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 8 and 15 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and are thus in

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condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 12 that depends from Claim 8 and Claim 20 that depends from Claim 15 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

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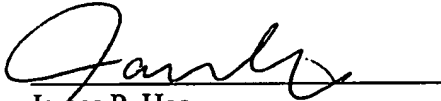
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-15, and 17-21 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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